

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 92

By Eldridge

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Stancil Ford of Hamblen County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Stancil Ford; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ford was an exemplary and conscientious public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, born in 1932 in the throes of the Great Depression, Stancil Ford grew up to follow his older brothers into military service, joining the Army Air Corps and serving valiantly in Korea from 1953 to 1954; and

WHEREAS, during his time in the military, Mr. Ford was assigned to transport and charged with driving a truck filled with ammunition to the front lines every day; when the ceasefire came, his job was to deliver prisoners of war back to North Korea; and

WHEREAS, after returning to civilian life, Stancil Ford enjoyed a professional career with AT&T, from which he retired after four decades of devoted, capable service; however, though he excelled in his vocation, his true passion was public service; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the Hamblen County Commission, Mr. Ford held the distinction of being the longest-serving county commissioner chairman, with a total of fifteen years during two separate stints of service; in all, he served the people of Hamblen County as a commissioner for twenty-eight years; and

WHEREAS, during his nearly three decades on the commission, Stancil Ford was instrumental in bringing 911 services to Hamblen County; in 1987, he was a founding member of the Morristown-Hamblen County Emergency Communications District, serving eighteen years

as district chairman. He also served for twelve years as chairman of the Hamblen-Morristown Solid Waste Board as well as the State's Private Probation Services Council; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ford represented his constituents in the 10th House District well during his four terms with the General Assembly, from 1994 to 2002; during his tenure, he secured funding for capital improvements for the Walters State Community College R. Jack Fishman Library, the science building, the police academy, and the Great Smoky Mountain Expo Center; and

WHEREAS, Representative Ford helped obtain funding for major road improvements to the extension of State Highway 160 at Interstate 81, Exit 12, and for the construction of Merchants Greene Boulevard; he also secured a \$300,000 state grant to purchase safety equipment for the Hamblen County Volunteer Fire Departments and was instrumental in working with Panther Creek State Park to steer the necessary funding for building the scenic overlook, which was later named in his honor; and

WHEREAS, a devoted family man, Stancil Ford is survived by his daughter, Kathy (Gordon) Lewis; granddaughters, Kayla (Cole) Moore and Kellie (Jonathan) Brazeal; great-granddaughter, Addison Grae Moore; and dear friend, Carol Barnes; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy; parents, Joe and Eliza Ford; brothers, Henry Ford and Harold Ford; and sister, Margaret Howerton; and

WHEREAS, respected and admired by his many friends and colleagues, Stancil Ford took great pride in making his community and State a better place for all; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ford leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Stancil Ford, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character as a public servant and human being and commending his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Ford.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.